

Annapolis Education Commission

March 23 2022 Meeting Minutes

The Annapolis Education Commission held its regularly scheduled monthly meeting virtually on **Wednesday, March 23, 2022.**

Commissioners Present: Chair Ochs, Vice-Chair Booth, Weaver, Collison-Lee, Pachler, Ellis, Norman, Starkes, Bukowski (non-voting member)

Commissioners Absent: Golder, Mackall, Matthews, Ald. Finlayson

Guests: Betsy McKenna, Public Testimony; Archie Trader, Director Annapolis Recreation and Parks

I. Call to Order

- a. Chair Ochs called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

II. Roll Call

- a. Chair Ochs verified that a quorum was present.

III. Approval of Agenda

- a. No objections to accept and approve agenda

IV. Approval of Minutes

- a. No objections to accept and approve minutes

V. Public Testimony

- a. Betsy McKeon, speaking as a parent at Georgetown East to express concerns about the lack of after school care for 2022-2023.

She asks that the Commission request that Annapolis Rec & Parks provide after school care for all of the Annapolis cluster elementary schools as start and dismissal times will be 8:00-2:25, earlier than middle school and high school start/dismissal.

VI. Discussion with Mr. Archie Trader, Director Annapolis Rec & Parks

- a. Response to Ms. McKeon
 - i. Only 4 students had been registered from GTE; not cost effective
 - ii. Need families to come forward and register for program
 - iii. Has requested extra funding to accommodate families

- b. Rec&Parks communicates with each school to find out needs re. after school care.
- c. Some Major issues/concerns:
 - I. Application process difficult—must go in person to rec department office during work hours.
 - li. Lack of knowledge about funding available to families
 - lii. Cannot predict in June the needs for September
 - Iv. May not meet deadlines for application to get space
 - V. Transportation could be an issue
 - Vi. Not enough students to warrant after care
 - Vii. Need to improve outreach and knowledge about before/after care programs.
 - Viii. Communication
 - Ix. AMS/BMS after school activities/programs
- d. Response to concerns:
 - I. Working to allow applications to be filed online but needs to address those who have no accessibility to online.
 - li, Vouchers are accepted for before and after school care. They are available thru public and subsidized housing. Fee schedules for less than 5 day week of care
 - lii. Can extend the deadline/due date
 - Iv. Reach out with current status and procedures; equalizing “playing field”
 - V. Has submitted a proposal for \$150K grant that includes a 15 passenger van. Also has 2 busses
 - Vi. Perhaps students at two schools could merge for care; another option would be to be picked up at school and transported to rec center.
 - Vii. Open forum at each school with parents to see how they can best be served. Surveys.
 - Viii. Aforementioned forums at each school; taking advantage of AACPS help to notify parents and publicize (connect ed; texts; emails); communicating directly with POC at each school; members of AEC involved at each school
 - Ix. Ken Starkes also shared his partnership at Maryland Hall, “Hood to Good.” after school program focused on talent and skill . Rec & Parks offers REACH program: After school homework club with emphasis on education and enrichment. Would like to establish some sports teams, instructional as well as competitive. Volunteer community coaches for in-house leagues and sports.

- e. Bottom Line: Needs people to come to his office, Rec & Parks office to meet with his team to help strategically plan and make it all happen. Is calling on the AEC to be part of this. Although no formal motion was made, Members of the Commission indicated that they were on board with this.

VII. Committee Updates

- a. Charter School
 - i. Odessa Ellis reported that the committee is currently stalled and will wait until the new superintendent has been selected and is in place.
- b. Career Track
 - i. Janet Norman reported that information about career mentoring, job fairs, internships, scholarship opportunities, etc. can be found on the AHS PTSA FB Page posts from Becky Burr Hogan, the Signature Program Facilitator.
 - ii. Ken Starkes shared that the AHS Signature Program, Change Engineering, has made an impact on many students in that it empowers them to speak, gives students a platform and opportunities, and encourages thought.
- i c. Superintendent Search
 - i. The online survey was somewhat limited as a forum for the AACPS community to provide input and share information with the search committee.
 - ii. Chair Ochs reported she was one of eleven stakeholders Who met with the search committee. She represented AEC, and indicated other groups such as NAACP, CAC, and PTA were also represented. Each stakeholder met individually with the Committee.

IX. New Business

- a. Annapolis Middle School will be the first AACPS middle school to be designated a Title 1 school having met the threshold of 75% students receiving free or reduced cost meals. Funding is for the purpose of growing and improving school instructional program through research based strategies to improve student achievement; and can be used for staffing needs, staff development, parent involvement/engagement, after school programs.
- b. Discussion about recent vote in the US Senate to make a permanent switch to daylight saving time year round. However, science journals seem to be in opposition to this as it chronically deprives sleep, increases illnesses and accidents, lowers performance in

school, sports and workplace. Groups such as Start School Later agree and feel that a switch will negate the positive effects on sleep of delaying school start times as well as leading to safety and health issues.

c. Volunteers are at an all time low in schools even though Covid restrictions have been lifted. Impacts are felt in the classrooms, in enrichment/after school programs, curriculum and extra- and co-curriculars. and even sports. And in the school building itself.

d. The Dolly Parton Reading Program, Imagination Library, provides Free books monthly to children birth to 5 years. This is to encourage children to grow their own libraries. Parents/guardians can register their children for this program online. Spread the word!

XI. Adjournment

a. With no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm

The next meeting will be held Wednesday April 27 at 6:00pm.

Submitted by
Pamela Bukowski